Listing of the Claims:

The following listing of the claims is to replace all previous listings of the claims.

1-62. (CANCELLED)

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for inhibiting expression of a polynucleotide sequence of hepatitis B virus in an *in vivo* mammalian cell comprising administering to said cell a double-stranded RNA effector molecule comprising an at least 19 contiguous base pair nucleotide sequence in a double-stranded conformation from within a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:10; wherein U is substituted for T.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 63, wherein at least two of said double-stranded RNA effector molecules are administered to the same mammalian cell.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 64, wherein said at least two double-stranded RNA effector molecules comprise an at least 19 contiguous base pair nucleotide sequence in a double-stranded conformation from within SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:10.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 65, wherein said administering is accomplished by providing one or more expression vectors capable of expressing in said mammalian cell said at least two double-stranded RNA effector molecules.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 66, wherein said one or more expression vectors further comprise a promoter selected from an RNA polymerase I promoter, an RNA polymerase II promoter, a T7 polymerase promoter, an SP6 polymerase promoter, an RNA polymerase III promoter, a tRNA promoter, and a mitochondrial promoter, said promoter operably linked to a sequence encoding at least one of said double-stranded RNA effector molecules.

68-77. (CANCELLED)

78. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A composition for inhibiting the expression of a polynucleotide sequence of hepatitis B virus in an *in vivo* mammalian cell comprising a double-stranded RNA effector molecule, comprising an at least 19 contiguous base pair nucleotide sequence in a double-stranded conformation from within a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:10; wherein U is substituted for T.

79. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composition of claim 78 comprising at least two double-stranded RNA effector molecules wherein said effector molecules comprise an at least 19 contiguous base pair nucleotide sequence in a double-stranded conformation from within SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:10.

80-97. (CANCELLED)

98. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 63, wherein said double-stranded RNA effector molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs 18-22 where U is substituted for T.

99. (WITHDRAWN) The method of claim 98 wherein expression of said double-stranded RNA effector molecule in an HBV cell culture transfection assay mediates at least 87% inhibition of HBsAg level relative to control lacking said effector molecule.

100. (WITHDRAWN) The composition of claim 78 wherein said double-stranded RNA effector molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs 18-22 where U is substituted for T.

101. (WITHDRAWN) The composition of claim 100 wherein expression of said double-stranded RNA effector molecule in an HBV cell culture transfection assay mediates at least 87% inhibition of HBsAg level relative to control lacking said effector molecule.